

STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT

Cherry Press Release

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SEN. CHERRY INTRODUCES BILL TO HELP STUDENTS AFFORD HIGHER EDUCATION

Governor's scholarship expansion plan offers \$4,000 to cover tuition

LANSING – State Sen. Deb Cherry (D-Burton) introduced legislation, Senate Bill 1335, today that would help make it possible for all of Michigan students to continue their education beyond high school. The New Merit Award, first proposed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, would make \$4,000 available to every student who wants to earn a 2-year college degree or technical certification.

“To get a good paying job today, students need more than a high school education,” Sen. Cherry said. “This legislation will ensure that all of Michigan’s children can get at least 2-years of education after high school, which will give them the opportunity to be prepared to compete in the job market of the 21st century.”

The legislation introduced today is a direct response to the central recommendation of the Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. The commission, headed by Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, concluded that we must make post-secondary education universal in Michigan. Knowing that students’ prosperity, as well as Michigan’s prosperity depends on it, Gov. Granholm has urged the Legislature to pass her New Merit Award scholarship before its summer recess. The new award provides every Michigan child the opportunity to earn a \$4,000 scholarship, unlike the current Merit program that only gives funding to students who do well on the MEAP test.

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Sen. Deborah Cherry is a first-term Democrat from Burton, Michigan. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she sits on the Higher Education, Department of Community Health, Department of Natural Resources and Capital Outlay subcommittees.

